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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RONALD F. MARTINEZ,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
W.L. MUNIZ, et al.,  
Defendants.

Case No. 18-cv-02291-HSG (PR)

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**INTRODUCTION**

Plaintiff, an inmate at Salinas Valley State Prison (“SVSP”), filed this *pro se* civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claiming that he was retaliated against for filing previous federal district court actions against his jailors. Plaintiff is granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis in a separate order. The complaint is now before the Court for review pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.

**DISCUSSION**

**A. Standard of Review**

Federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of cases in which prisoners seek redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). The court must identify cognizable claims or dismiss the complaint, or any portion of the complaint, if the complaint “is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief

1 may be granted,” or “seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.” *Id.*  
2 § 1915A(b). *Pro se* pleadings must be liberally construed, however. *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police*  
3 *Dep’t*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

4 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) requires only “a short and plain statement of the  
5 claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” “Specific facts are not necessary; the  
6 statement need only ““give the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds upon  
7 which it rests.”” *Erickson v. Pardus*, 127 S. Ct. 2197, 2200 (2007) (citations omitted). Although  
8 in order to state a claim a complaint “does not need detailed factual allegations, . . . a plaintiff’s  
9 obligation to provide the grounds of his ‘entitle[ment] to relief’ requires more than labels and  
10 conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not do. . . .  
11 Factual allegations must be enough to raise a right to relief above the speculative level.” *Bell*  
12 *Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 127 S. Ct. 1955, 1964-65 (2007) (citations omitted). A complaint  
13 must proffer “enough facts to state a claim for relief that is plausible on its face.” *Id.* at 1974.

14 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements:  
15 (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that  
16 the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *West v.*  
17 *Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

18 **B. Legal Claims**

19 Plaintiff alleges that SVSP defendants W.L. Muniz, P. Sullivan, V. Lomeli, R. Monroy, Jr.,  
20 C. Martella, R. Binkle, and D. Farmer retaliated against plaintiff, in violation of the First  
21 Amendment, by improperly screening or otherwise impermissibly interfering with the processing  
22 of plaintiff’s prison grievances. When liberally construed, these allegations state cognizable  
23 claims under Section 1983 and shall proceed.

24 Plaintiff has also named Does 1-3 as defendants. Because the use of Doe defendants is not  
25 favored in the Ninth Circuit, *see Gillespie v. Civiletti*, 629 F.2d 637, 642 (9th Cir. 1980), the Doe  
26 defendants will be dismissed without prejudice. Should plaintiff succeed in identifying the  
27 unknown defendants, he may, upon a proper showing, move to amend to add them to his  
28 complaint. *See id.*

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**CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:

1. The Clerk shall issue summons and the United States Marshal shall serve, without prepayment of fees, a copy of the complaint with all attachments thereto, and a copy of this order upon defendants **W.L. Muniz, P. Sullivan, V. Lomeli, R. Monroy, Jr., C. Martella, R. Binkle, and D. Farmer at Salinas Valley State Prison.**

A courtesy copy of the complaint with attachments and this order shall also be mailed to the California Attorney General's Office.

2. In order to expedite the resolution of this case, the Court orders as follows:

a. No later than **91 days** from the date this order is filed, defendants must file and serve a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion. If defendants are of the opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, defendants must so inform the Court prior to the date the motion is due. A motion for summary judgment also must be accompanied by a *Rand* notice so that plaintiff will have fair, timely, and adequate notice of what is required of him in order to oppose the motion. *Woods v. Carey*, 684 F.3d 934, 939 (9th Cir. 2012) (notice requirement set out in *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952 (9th Cir. 1998), must be served concurrently with motion for summary judgment).<sup>1</sup>

b. Plaintiff's opposition to the summary judgment or other dispositive motion must be filed with the Court and served upon defendants no later than **28 days** from the date the motion is filed. Plaintiff must bear in mind the notice and warning regarding summary judgment provided later in this order as he prepares his opposition to any motion for summary judgment.

c. Defendants **shall** file a reply brief no later than **14 days** after the date the opposition is filed. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due. No hearing will be held on the motion.

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<sup>1</sup> If defendants assert that plaintiff failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a), defendants must raise such argument in a motion for summary judgment, pursuant to the Ninth Circuit's opinion in *Albino v. Baca*, 747 F.3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2014) (en banc) (overruling *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315 F.3d 1108, 1119 (9th Cir. 2003), which held that failure to exhaust available administrative remedies under the Prison Litigation Reform Act, should be raised by a defendant as an unenumerated Rule 12(b) motion).

1           3. Plaintiff is advised that a motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal  
2 Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case. Rule 56 tells you what you must do in  
3 order to oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted  
4 when there is no genuine issue of material fact – that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact  
5 that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to  
6 judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case. When a party you are suing makes a  
7 motion for summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn  
8 testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out  
9 specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents,  
10 as provided in Rule 56(c), that contradict the facts shown in the defendants’ declarations and  
11 documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit  
12 your own evidence in opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you.  
13 If summary judgment is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial. *Rand v.*  
14 *Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 962-63 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc) (App. A).

15           (The *Rand* notice above does not excuse defendants’ obligation to serve said notice again  
16 concurrently with a motion for summary judgment. *Woods*, 684 F.3d at 939).

17           4. All communications by plaintiff with the Court must be served on defendants’ counsel  
18 by mailing a true copy of the document to defendants’ counsel. The Court may disregard any  
19 document which a party files but fails to send a copy of to his opponent. Until a defendants’  
20 counsel has been designated, plaintiff may mail a true copy of the document directly to  
21 defendants, but once a defendant is represented by counsel, all documents must be mailed to  
22 counsel rather than directly to that defendant.

23           5. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. No  
24 further court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or Local Rule 16 is required  
25 before the parties may conduct discovery.

26           6. Plaintiff is responsible for prosecuting this case. Plaintiff must promptly keep the Court  
27 informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court’s orders in a timely fashion.  
28 Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to


1 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). Plaintiff must file a notice of change of address in every  
2 pending case every time he is moved to a new facility.

3 7. Any motion for an extension of time must be filed no later than the deadline sought to  
4 be extended and must be accompanied by a showing of good cause.

5 8. Plaintiff is cautioned that he must include the case name and case number for this case  
6 on any document he submits to the Court for consideration in this case.

7 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

8 Dated: 7/17/2018

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11 HAYWOOD S. GILLIAM, JR.  
12 United States District Judge  
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